

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01
PPT-01 SCA-01 VO-03 ACDA-07 IO-13 /084 W
-----310930Z 041722 /10

R 301130Z DEC 76
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3712
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
CINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSAREUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2848

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, WB, GW, GE, US, UK, FR
SUBJECT: GDR MODIFIEIS ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR EAST BERLIN

1. BRIEF THREE PARAGRAPH ARTICLE ON PAGE 2 OF DECEMBER 30
NEUES DEUTSCHLAND REPORTS GDR WILL INSTITUTE
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1 REQUIREMENT THAT ALL NON-GERMAN
VISITORS ENTERING EAST BERLIN FROM WEST BERLIN MUST
BE IN POSSESSION OF VALID PASSPORT AND PURCHASE VISA
EVEN FOR ONE DAY VISITS. ACCORDING TO ND, THE VISA
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CAN BE OBTAINED AT ALL NORMAL EAST BERLIN CROSSING
POINTS AND WILL BE VALID ONLY UNTIL MIDNIGHT OF THE
DAY OF ISSUANCE. UNTIL NOW, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT,
PERSONS ENTERING EAST BERLIN FROM WEST BERLIN COULD
STAY FOR 24 HOURS FROM TIME OF ENTRY, PERMITTING AN
OVERNIGHT STAY WITHOUT A VISA.

2. ACCORDING TO NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, THE NEW REGULATIONS WILL NOT CHANGE REQUIREMENTS FOR CITIZENS OF THE FRG OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF WEST BERLIN.

3. AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, THE NEW REGULATION IS NOT INTENDED TO EFFECT ALLIED TRAVELERS SEEKING TO ENTER EAST BERLIN (DETAILS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE, BUT ARE BEING PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GESETZBLATT DER DDR). IT APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT THE AVERAGE NON-GERMAN TOURISTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY MORE FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF VISITING EAST BERLIN SINCE HE WILL HAVE TO PURCHASE A VISA IN ADDITION TO EXCHANGING THE REQUIRED DM6.50. WEST BERLIN'S SENDER FREIES BERLIN SPECULATES THAT GDR DESIRE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL HARD CURRENCY MAY HAVE BEEN PRIMARY REASON FOR IMPOSITION OF NEW VISA REQUIREMENT.

4. ON FIRST GLANCE, INSTITUTION OF NEW REGULATIONS ALSO REPRESENTS ANOTHER BARELY PERCEPTIBLE STEP TOWARDS "INCORPORATING" EAST BERLIN INTO THE GDR AS IT ELIMINATES ONE MORE OF THE FINE INTERNAL REGULATORY DIFFERENCES WHICH HAD DISTINGUISHED EAST BERLIN FROM THE REST OF THE TERRITORY UNDER GDR CONTROL.

5. USCOB CONCURS.
DAVIS

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